WHISTLE!

SHONEN JUMP GRAPHIC NOVEL

Story & Art by

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volume 3

STAGE.17
Thanks

TAIWHEETT

WHISTLE!

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SHOULD BE EASY!

WE NEED AT LEAST FOUR MORE POINTS IN THE SECOND HALF.

YOU'VE DONE REALLY WELL SO FAR. LET'S CARRY ON LIKE THIS IN THE LAST HALF!

HEY! DON'T LISTEN TO WHAT OUR OPPONENTS SAY!

SLUMP

JOSUI

...

GLUMMM

OKAY? ♡

TRUE ...

YOU KNOW WE HAVEN'T INTRODUCED OURSELVES ...

A SHAME... ABOUT THAT KICK.

I COULDN'T MAKE THE GOAL.

BLAST IT!

W-WE DIDN'T SCORE.

HUFF

JOSUI

MUSASHINOMORI 2 1 JOSUI 0

TWO TO ZERO! THE FIRST HALF IS OVER WITH MUSASHINOMORI IN THE LEAD.

NOPE.

WE DIDN'T SCORE AS MUCH AS WE THOUGHT WE WOULD.

TUMP TUMP TUMP

JOSUI

JOSUI

JOSUI

READ THIS WAY

LOCKER ROOM

Tosui Junior High
Koyamauchi Junior High
Anjuro Junior High

UMM. WE NEED TO CHANGE OUR CLOTHES.

SPOOP

...STRAIGHTEN YOUR-SELVES UP A BIT!

HEY, YOU DON'T LOOK GOOD!

TRY THIS. YŌKO'S SPECIAL DRINK, AND ...

YES?

EXCUSE ME...

BUT I THINK WE NEED A REAL COACH.

...AND I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY ADVICE.

LOOK, I'M NOT GOOD ...

HOW DO YOU KNOW ...?

I HEARD THAT HEADBAND IS YOUR TRADE-MARK.

RIGHT?

OYASSAN OF THE TASTY ODEN STAND!

I AM ...

SO YOU'RE SHŌ'S BROTHER? HE SAID YOU WORK AS AN ESCORT OR SOMETHING. YOU KNOW, THANKS TO HIM I'M ENJOYING MYSELF A LOT MORE OF LATE.

AN ESCORT ...?

BOW

AND THANK YOU FOR BEING POLITE.

THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AFTER HIM.

I'M SHŌ KAZAMATSURI'S BROTHER, KŌ.

HE'S BEEN PLAYING DUMB, Y'KNOW, ACTING LIKE HE HAD NO IDEA WHAT SOCCER WAS, BUT IT TURNS OUT HE KNOWS MORE THAN ANY OF US.

HI.

SO'S ONE OF MY REGULAR CUSTOMERS.

AND, YOU ARE ...?

...CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

ABOUT THAT, OYASSAN ...

THAT'S REALLY INCREDIBLE.

BETTER THAN INCREDIBLE !!

WE'RE A BEGINNING TEAM, WE WENT UP AGAINST THE BEST PLAYERS OF MUSASHINOMORI, AND WE KEPT THE GAME AT 2-0!

JOSU

MASATO...

WE KNOW THEIR REGULARS ARE THE BEST, SO DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP OVER THIS. C'MON, LET'S ENJOY ...

OUR LIVES AS SOCCER PLAYERS WON'T END HERE AND NOW.

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF WE WIN OR LOSE.

JOSU

JOSU

2

WHY'RE YOU ALL LOOKING SO GLUM?

BUT SOMEHOW DURING THIS HALFTIME, WE'VE GOT TO CHANGE OUR ATTITUDES.

ER ...

ESPECIALLY TATSUYA. HE GETS THE BRUNT OF IT BECAUSE OF HIS POSITION.

EVERY-ONE'S TIRED.

THE END

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?

WH...

GRRRRR

OH? AND WHAT WAS THAT MOVE DURING THE FIRST HALF? HOW COULD THE FW PASS THE BALL BACKWARD INSTEAD OF FORWARD? YOU CAN'T BE PLAYING SERIOUSLY.

FORGET ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE. WORRY ABOUT YOURSELVES!

...AND TATSUYA, TOO...

I WAS ONLY TRYING TO CHEER EVERYONE UP...

MASATO!

OR, IF YOU REALLY HAVE TO WIN, THEN PLAY BY YOUR --

IF YOU WANTED TO WIN SO BAD, WHY DIDN'T YOU JOIN MUSASHINOMORI?

GGRRRRR

YOU'RE BOTH GOOD. YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW A BAD PLAYER LIKE ME FEELS. YOU KEEP SHOUTING ABOUT WINNING. WHY BOTHER, MAN? WE NEVER HAD A CHANCE. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE PLAYING LIKE WE DO.

MASATO, ALL YOU DO IS TALK. PROVE YOURSELF BY DOING IT.

KNOCK IT OFF! I'M DOING THE BEST I CAN!

YAAWWWNNN

STOP IT, BOTH OF YOU!

STOP IT! STOP JABBERING!

IF YOU DON'T INTEND TO WIN, DON'T BOTHER PLAYING THE MATCH!

IT'S BECAUSE YOU DON'T MIND LOSING, YOU END UP DOING A LOUSY JOB!

READ THIS WAY

IT'S NOT MUSASHINOMORI TATSUYA WANTS TO BEAT.

BUT, IF YOU DON'T TELL THE TRUTH ...

...THEY'RE NOT GOING TO UNDERSTAND WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT TO YOU.

IT'S HIS FATHER !!

MUSASHINOMORI'S COACH IS TATSUYA'S FATHER!

SHŌ ...

WHAT ?

I'M SORRY, TATSUYA ...

BUT ...

MAN, THAT IS SO CHILDISH.

SO YOU'VE DUMPED YOUR PERSONAL PROBLEMS ON US, HUH?

AND THE ONLY REASON YOU WANNA WIN IS YOU HATE YOUR FATHER?

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU PUT US THROUGH ALL THIS 'CAUSE YOU'RE SELFISH.

IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF SOME PERSONAL GRUDGE, HUH?

ACTUALLY... I'M GOOD WITH THAT.

BLUSHH

YOU'RE RIGHT.

FIRST TIME I EVER SAW HIM BLUSH.

!

SO THE REASON TATSUYA DIDN'T GO TO MUSASHINOMORI WHEN HE WAS ASKED TO WAS...

AND THAT'S IMPORTANT... WHY?

MUSASHINOMORI'S COACH IS COACH KIRIHARA, RIGHT? THEY DON'T HAVE THE SAME LAST NAME.

WHAT THE HECK.

THAT'S WHY...

OF COURSE.

MY PARENTS DIVORCED!

SMAK

OUCH!

JOSUI

OKAY. WE'RE ALL DOWN WITH YOU BEING SELFISH.

...TO TRUST US MORE, TATSUYA.

BUT I WANT YOU ...

...THE VERY BEST WE CAN.

I MEAN, WE DON'T HAVE THEIR SKILL, SO THEY MAY STEAL THE BALL.

AND I'M SURE WE'LL MAKE MISTAKES, BUT WE'RE GONNA DO...

...INSIDE, YOU'RE NOT SO DIFFERENT FROM US.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE COOL, BUT YOU'VE GOT A HOT FLAME IN YOU. I MEAN ...

...I HATE A PLACE WHERE SOMEONE LIKE SHŌ, WHO TRIES SO HARD, ISN'T EVEN RECOGNIZED FOR WHO HE IS!

NOT 'CAUSE OF SOME PERSONAL GRUDGE, BUT...

AND, WELL, I WANNA BEAT MUSASHINOMORI, TOO.

THUD

THEN WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE.

THEY LOOK DOWN ON US.

THEY REALLY SUCK.

NO WAY!

WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE AGAINST THEM, DO WE, GUYS?

THANKS.

WE'LL WIN THIS *TOGETHER!*

SO, YEAH, LET'S BRING OUT EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT.

SOUJI MATSUSHITA!

THIS MAN'S MY REGULAR CUSTOMER, AND HE SAYS HE CAN GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE. I'D LISTEN TO HIM.

HOW-DY

HAVING A PRETTY HARD GAME, HUH?

YOU CAME TO WATCH!

FORGET THAT. FOCUS ON MISAGH-NOMORI

I REMEMBER YOU.

YOU'RE THE FAMOUS MF, AREN'T YOU? YOU WERE BIG DURING THE JAPAN LEAGUE, THEN SUDDENLY YOU DISAPPEARED.

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

AND I WOULDN'T MIND SHARING IT WITH YOU. WHAT DO YOU SAY?

I KNOW A SECRET STRATEGY THAT CAN MAKE YOU MATCH EVEN WITH THEM

SKREEK

IF YOU'RE WORRIED, YOU CAN ASK MY ADVICE.

AND THAT GK ...

DEFENSE TEAM WILL HAVE A HARD JOB THERE

I'M BETTING THEY'LL BEGIN AN ALL-OUT ATTACK TO SCORE B G

SO, HOW DO WE PLAY THE SECOND HALF?

SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU.

AH..

!

!

WE WANT TO HELP.

OYASSAN!

WHO ARE YOU?

NON-TEAM MEMBERS AREN'T ALLOWED HERE.

STAGE.18

If You Can Dream, You Can Do It!

● OLD STORY ABOUT THE EXCITING J LEAGUE MEMBERS.

THE COUNTRY MAN, OKANO, JOINED NICHIDAI FROM MATSUE NICHIDAI HIGH SCHOOL. OF COURSE HE WENT ON TO JOIN THE SOCCER TEAM. HOWEVER, THE TEAMMATES HIS AGE WERE ALL FROM FAMOUS SCHOOLS, WHO WERE ACCEPTED INTO THE SCHOOL BECAUSE OF SPECIAL RECOMMENDATIONS THEY RECEIVED BASED ON THEIR SKILLS. OKANO, WHO ENTERED THE SCHOOL BY PASSING THE GENERAL ENTRANCE EXAM, WASN'T EVEN NOTICED BY THE COACH. AT THE END OF THE FIRST YEAR, THEY HAD THE ANNUAL FRESHMEN MATCH. ON THE PAMPHLET FOR THE MATCH, THE NAMES OF ALL THE FRESHMEN WERE SUPPOSED TO BE LISTED. OKANO'S NAME WAS MISSING DESPITE THE FACT THAT HE WAS THERE THE ENTIRE YEAR PREPARING JUICE FOR THE REGULARS GAME AFTER GAME AND KEEP NG THE SCORE AT EVERY MATCH. HOWEVER, DURING HIS SECOND YEAR, A NEW COACH WAS ASSIGNED TO WORK WITH THE FIRST AND THE SECOND YEAR PLAYERS, AND HE TOOK NOTICE OF OKANO'S SPEED. THUS, OKANO EVENTUALLY SUCCEEDED IN BECOMING A REGULAR PLAYER.

WHAT ABOUT THE PLAYER HONDA OF THE YOKOHAMA ANTLERS? I'VE HEARD THAT SINCE HE WAS A GRADE-SCHOOL KID HE WAS NOT ALLOWED TO PLAY LIKE OTHER NORMAL KIDS, BUT INSTEAD HE PLAYED SOCCER ALL DAY LONG. AFTER THE PRACTICE SESSION AT SCHOOL, HE RECEIVED SPECIAL TRAINING FROM HIS FATHER AT A PARK NEARBY, AND EVERY NOW AND THEN HE WAS SEEN RUNNING ALONG WITH HIS FAVORITE DOBERMAN DOG FOLLOWING HIS FATHER'S CAR. AND BEFORE HE WENT TO SLEEP, HE HAD TO PRACTICE HEAD-KICKS, VOLLEY-KICKS AND SUCH ON HIS FUTON. TO TOP IT OFF, BECAUSE HONDA WAS SMALL, HE WAS FORCED TO DRINK MILK AND RAW EGGS EVERY MORNING, BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT THIS DRINK WOULD HELP HIM GROW BIGGER. HIS LIFE WAS TOTALLY A SOCCER VERSION OF "STAR OF GIANT." WHAT HONDA LEARNED WHILE AT THE GRADE SCHOOL IS THAT DRINKING MILK AND EGGS WON'T MAKE A KID GROW ANY BIGGER.

--TATSUYA WATANABE *(WINNING RUN)*

OUR PROBLEM IS NO. 10 ONCE HE'S DESTROYED, THE REST OF THEM ARE GARBAGE.

NO. I THINK IT WAS LUCK WHAT CAN AN EX-SUBSTITUTE PLAYER DO?

NO. 9...?

YES!

IF YOU DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN, YOU'D BETTER FIND SOME FRESH ENERGY IN THE SECOND HALF

SO I'M GOING TO CAREFULLY MONITOR THE MATCH. AND BASED ON WHAT YOU DO, SOME OF YOU MAY BE DROPPED TO THE RANK OF SUBSTITUTE PLAYER.

CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER

C'MON. WE CAN DESTROY THEM.

WHY ARE WE SUFFERING AGAINST A THIRD-CLASS TEAM?

THAT'S GOTTA BE A JOKE -- DROP US DOWN TO SUB-STITUTE POSITION ?

SLAMM

WHAT DO YOU THINK JOSUI WILL DO DURING THE SECOND HALF?

WHAT-EVER IT IS, WE CAN'T RELAX

SEIJ

THEY DON'T GET IT. WELL, IF THEY DID, THEY WOULDN'T BE THE COACH'S PUPPETS.

JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH
KAMIMACHI JUNIOR HIGH
ARGURO JUNIOR HIGH

WHAT WAS THAT... THAT SO-CALLED MATCH?

HAVE YOU BEEN GOOFING OFF DURING YOUR TRAINING SESSIONS?

OR MAYBE NONE OF YOU REALLY WANTS TO PLAY.

WE HAVE AN OVER-POWERING ADVANTAGE IN THE SET-PLAY AND YOU COULDN'T SCORE A SINGLE POINT?

WHAT ?

JOSUI'S NO. 9 PLAYER. HE WAS OUR SUBSTITUTE LAST YEAR.

...EVERY-ONE PLAYED AS USUAL.

BUT WHEN OUR PATTERN IS OBVIOUS TO THEM, WE HAVE TO EXPECT IT WON'T WORK

WE'RE SORRY.

I DON'T MEAN TO BE DISRESPECTFUL, COACH, BUT...

READ THIS WAY

SO, DURING THE SECOND HALF, SAVOR THAT HAPPINESS, AND...

...ENJOY SOCCER WITHOUT RESERVATION.

OF COURSE!

I HEARD THAT SOME-WHERE.

HUH?

TOMOYUKI SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

LOCKER ROOM

SO...

THAT'S IT.

YOU THINK YOU CAN HANDLE IT?

WE'LL DO OUR BEST.

WE'LL ENDEAVOR TO ACHIEVE IT.

IT'LL BE NICE IF WE CAN.

I THINK WE CAN, MAYBE

WE'LL TRY.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE PLAYING YOUR FAVORITE GAME WITHOUT ANYONE STOPPING YOU

I LIKE YOUR NON-AGGRESSIVE ANSWERS

MUSASHI-NOMORI IS OUR DREAM SCHOOL.

OUCH

WHETHER YOU'RE A REGULAR PLAYER OR A SUBSTITUTE, SOCCER'S SOCCER, ISN'T IT?

WHOA...

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

KYAA!

YOU KNOW, I MADE IT TO MUSASHI-NOMORI M DREAM SCHOOL

BUT IT'S HARD TO EVER START AS A THIRD-TIER SUBSTITUTE PLAYER

... THAT ALONE SHOULD MAKE US HAPPY!

BEING ABLE TO PLAY SOCCER HERE, I THINK.

THE FIRST TIME I MET TOMOYUKI WAS AT MUSASHI-NOMORI'S ENTRANCE EXAM.

WE SHOULD KEEP TRYING TO BECOME REGULAR PLAYERS.

YUP

THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M GIVING UP ON BECOMING A REGULAR

YOU'RE RIGHT!

SHŌ!

OVER THERE...

I WANT TO STAND ON THE FIELD

SORRY.

THE OLDER GUYS TOLD US TO POLISH ALL THE SPIKES IF WE DON'T GET STARTED IT'LL BE NIGHT BEFORE WE FINISH

JUST CALL ME TOMOYUKI. AREN'T WE BUDDIES?

SO, YOU WERE HERE?

YAMAKAWA!

AND THERE'S ALSO THE ONES FOR THE REGULAR PLAYERS. TAKE CARE OF THEM BY MORNING.

THESE ARE OURS, THE EIGHTH GRADERS.

THUNK THUD THUNK THUD

THERE ARE A LOT MORE. ALL RIGHT

...

SOB I-I DON'T WANNA DO THIS EVERY DAY

YUCHH! THESE STINK!

IT'S KIND OF INTERESTING.

IF YOU DON'T, YOU'LL BE DOING 50 LAPS AROUND THE TRACK!

WE'LL MAKE SURE YOU'VE DONE A GOOD JOB

DOING THE CHORES WAS A LOT OF WORK, BUT I LEARNED A LOT, AND I HAD FUN

AH, THIS GUY HAS PULLED OUT THE STUD FROM HERE

HEH HEH HEH

I WONDER IF IT'S BETTER WITHOUT IT?

...

IT'S LIKE EACH SHOE SHOWS THE PERSONALITY OF THE PERSON WHO'S WORN IT

WHAT'S INTERESTING?

HUH?

THIS ONE'S BY A SUBSTITUTE PLAYER IT'S DIRTY MAYBE THAT'S WHY HE'S A SUBSTITUTE

THIS ONE WORN BY A REGULAR PLAYER

EXCUSE ME.

HUH?

MY MOTHER MUST'VE PUT IT IN MY REGULAR BAG

WHAT DO I DO NOW?

DARN, BLAST IT

EXAM HALL

Hall #1

HUH? IT'S NOT HERE! MY LUNCH BOX IS MISSING!

MAYBE WE COULD SHARE?

I'VE GOT TOO MUCH HERE. I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO EAT IT ALL.

OUR RESULTS WEREN'T GOOD AND BOTH OF US ENDED UP AS THIRD-TIER SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS. I THINK THE REASON I DIDN'T GET DEPRESSED WAS BECAUSE OF HIM.

YOU'RE LATE, SUBSTITUTES. WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

OUR SECOND MEETING WAS AT THE SOCCER TEAM ENTRANCE TEST

DON'T YOU?

YOU WANT TO JOIN THE SOCCER TEAM?

ER --

THANKS!

I'M SHŌ KAZAMATSURI.

I'M TOMOYUKI YAMAKAWA.

TOMOYUKI

...YOU WON'T QUIT, WILL YOU?

SHŌ.

EVEN IF I'M THE LAST ONE, I WON'T GIVE UP!

OF COURSE NOT!

THE OLDER SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS.

I NEVER DREAMED OF LEAVING MUSASHI-NOMORI UNTIL THAT DAY

BECAUSE I WASN'T ALONE AND BECAUSE I BELIEVED I COULD STILL MAKE IT IF I TRIED HARD ENOUGH

I'M SURE TOMOYUKI FELT THE SAME

WHAT'S I HEARD THEM TALK

THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT ME

SUPER SMALL KID OF THE THIRD-TIER TEAM

YOU WANT ME TO WAIT FOR YOU?

I LEFT THE NET BEHIND

JUST GO AHEAD

SORRY

THE LAST ONE? HEY DON'T FORGET ME!

BUT THE FACT WAS, I WAS ALREADY WAVERING THINKING I MIGHT NOT BE GOOD ENOUGH

EVEN THOUGH WE WERE HARDLY ALLOWED TO TOUCH A BALL AND THE TRAINING WAS HARD.

IF ANYONE DROPS THE BALL EVERYONE STARTS OVER AGAIN!

LIFTING 500 TIMES!

FIVE MORE KILOMETERS!

HEY HEY DON'T SLOW DOWN.

...I CONTINUED.

BECAUSE I HAD A FRIEND WHO SHARED THE HARDSHIP WITH ME

DAY AFTER DAY WE REPEAT THE SAME CHORES NO WONDER THEY GOT SICK OF IT

IT'S BEEN ALMOST A YEAR AND WE HARDLY GET TO KICK THE BALL, AND

WHY?

I HEARD KIMURA AND WATANABE ARE QUITTING THE TEAM.

SIGH

I UNDERSTAND

READ THIS WAY

NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY...

AND IF I STAY HERE...

.. I'LL NEVER PLAY SOCCER.

I'LL NEVER GET OUT THERE

NO LONG AS I'M SMALL

USELESS...

HE SHOULD REALIZE IT, TOO.

OR MAYBE HE'S AN IDIOT.

NO MATTER HOW HARD HE TRIES, IT'S OBVIOUS HE'S USELESS.

HA! HA HA HA HA

YOU DIOT! ACCEPTING ONLY RECOMMENDED STUDENTS ISN'T SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE. BESIDES, WE NEED SOMEBODY TO DO ALL THE CHORES.

WHY DO THEY BOTHER LETTING GENERAL EXAM STUDENTS JOIN THE TEAM? IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'RE EVER GONNA ADVANCE

DRINKING TWO LITERS OF MILK EVERY DAY'S NOT GONNA HELP HIM GROW

HA HA HA HA HA!!

NO ONE RECOMMENDED HIM -- HE GOT IN THROUGH THE GENERAL EXAM NOBODY'S GONNA NOTICE HIM.

MAN, HE'S SO SHORT. HE'S TOTALLY HOPELESS. AND..

SOUNDS LIKE FUN!

GREAT GAME!

BECAUSE OF THAT LITTLE K'D, WE DON'T HAVE AS MANY QUITTERS THIS YEAR.

WHY DON'T WE SEE WHO CAN GET HIM TO QUIT FIRST?

THAT'S TRUE

IT WOULDN'T BE FUN IF WE DIDN'T HAVE SOMEONE TO BULLY

AND WHAT WOULD I DO WITH MY STRESS WITHOUT THEM?

H-HUH?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? WERE YOU SLEEPING?

. ZA TSURI

... PUPPY!

HA HA HA

IN THE SECOND HALF

..I COUNT ON YOU, FW.

. RESPONDED SOON AS I CALLED H.M PUPPY.

HE DIDN'T REACT TO HIS OWN NAME, BUT

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU SAID PUPPY VERY LOUD THAT'S WHY

CHATTER CHATTER

HUH?

YOU'VE GOT A GUEST, SHŌ.

ARE YOU JOKING?

YOU'RE LEAVING MUSASHINOMORI ?!

I NEVER THOUGHT YOU WERE THE TYPE...

...WHO'D RUN AWAY !!

YOU PROMISED WE'D WORK TOGETHER!

DON'T CALL ME TOMOYUKI !

TOMOYU--

I'M NO LONGER YOUR FRIEND!

GO WHER-EVER YOU WANT!

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOUR EXCUSES!

IF I STAY HERE I...

LISTEN TO ME, TOMOYUKI

YEAH!

AREN'T WE FRIENDS?

CALL ME TOMOYUKI, PLEASE

YAMAKAWA

UHH, SURE BUT -- WHY?

WILL YOU LET ME HAVE YOUR RIGHT LEG LEGGARS?

IT'S OKAY! SHŌ.

YAMA-KAWA. WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME!

NOTE: LEGGARS IS A PROTECTIVE GEAR WORN UNDER THE STOCKING TO PROTECT THE LEG/SHIN.

. OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU.

ON YOUR RIGHT LEG.

WE CAN'T ROOT FOR YOU OPENLY, BUT

IT'S TIME! TAKE THIS AND RUN!

O-OKAY

DONE!

WHOOSH

WHAT'RE YOU GONNA ?

SQUIKK

!

TOMOYUKI?!

I'M HERE BECAUSE I NEED TO SPEAK TO YOU.

WE'LL GO AHEAD AND WAIT, SHŌ.

JUST LEAVE THEM ALONE

MUSASHI-NOMORI? YOUR OLD BUDDIES?

YEAH?

ER-- I MEAN, YAMAKAWA.

YOU'RE ALL HERE, TOO.

...YOU DIDN'T RUN FROM MUSASHI-NOMORI.

I'M SORRY. I SAID A HORRIBLE THING TO YOU. THAT DAY.

I UNDER-STOOD WHILE I WATCHED THE FIRST HALF

YOU ...

GO FOR IT! SHŌ !!

WAKATTA

If you can dream it, you can do it!

頑えばなんとかなる。

STAGE.19

VOR!

– Go Further Up Front Than Anyone Else –

SO...
SORT OF.
.YOU HELPED THEM WITH SOME WINNING STRATEGY?
I CAST THE MAG C OF...
.. CINDERELLA..
YOU'RE LATE.
SORRY
CINDERELLA'S MAGIC STOPPED WORKING AT MIDNIGHT.
YOU'VE GOT ONLY 15 MINUTES FOR THE MIRACLE
HUH
YEAH. ME TOO IT'S TOUGH AT MY AGE
EH? HRR, I'M GETTING A LITTLE COLD
WHISPER WHISPER

MISCELLANEOUS FAMOUS PLAYS THAT I REMEMBER

NOVEMBER 3, 1992, AT THE HIROSHIMA BIG ARCH, THE JAPAN TEAM WAS PLAYING THE LAST MATCH AGAINST THE IRAQ TEAM. IT WAS DURING THE 10TH ASIAN SOCCER HIROSHIMA TOURNAMENT (ASIAN CUP), GROUP LEAGUE. PREPARING FOR THE OPENING OF J-LEAGUE, AND HOPING TO MAKE IT TO THE AMERICAN WORLD CUP, JAPAN INVITED HANS OFUTO TO COACH THE TEAM AT THE DYNASTY CUP, WHICH WAS HELD IN BEIJING (WHERE JAPAN, CHINA, SOUTH KOREA AND NORTH KOREA ATTENDED). THE JAPAN TEAM WON. THAT'S WHY THIS ASIAN CUP WAS AN IMPORTANT EVENT FOR THE JAPAN TEAM TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE JAPANESE FANS HOW STRONG THEY'D BECOME.

THE JAPAN TEAM'S OPPONENT AT THE GROUP LEAGUE WAS UAE (UNITED ARAB EMIRATE), NORTH KOREA AND IRAQ. TOP TWO TEAMS WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE ON TO THE SEMI-FINALS. THE JAPAN TEAM TIED WITH THE UAE TEAM AT THE FIRST MATCH, AND THE FOLLOWING MATCH WAS AGAINST THE NORTH KOREA TEAM. NORTH KOREA'S TEAM WAS CONSIDERED A LOWER LEVEL TEAM, AND YET THE JAPAN TEAM STRUGGLED AND ENDED UP WITH ANOTHER TIE. ALSO THAT DAY THE JAPAN TEAM WAS TO MATCH AGAINST THE IRAQ TEAM. BECAUSE OF THE TWO PREVIOUS TIES, UNLESS THE JAPAN TEAM WON THIS MATCH, THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MOVE ON TO THE SEMI-FINALS, WHILE THE IRAQ TEAM, WHICH HAD A WIN AND A LOSS SO FAR, COULD MOVE ON TO THE SEMI-FINALS EVEN IF THEY TIED. TO TOP IT OFF, THE IRAQ TEAM WAS THE CHAMPION OF THE BEIJING ASIAN CUP IN 1990.

EVERYONE THOUGHT THAT "THE JAPAN TEAM MUST AT LEAST WIN ONCE AT AN EVENT HELD IN JAPAN. THEY MUST DEMONSTRATE HOW STRONG THE TEAM HAD BECOME."

HOWEVER, THE GAME MAKER MORAS WAS NOT IN GOOD CONDITION AND WAS EXCLUDED FROM THEIR STANDARD MEMBERS OF THE JAPAN TEAM. THE IRAQ TEAM SET UP HEAVY DEFENSES FROM THE GET-GO -- THE COUNTERING WAS THEIR STRATEGY. ALTHOUGH THE JAPAN TEAM HAD AN ABSOLUTE LEAD, THEY FAILED IN BREAKING THROUGH THE IRAQ DEFENSE. DURING THE SECOND HALF, AFTER ABOUT EIGHT MINUTES INTO THE GAME, ONE OF THE IRAQ PLAYERS WAS KICKED OUT OF THE GAME, LEAVING THE IRAQ TEAM WITH 10 PLAYERS. TWENTY-THREE MINUTES INTO THE GAME, COACH OFUTO MADE AN AGGRESSIVE MOVE. IN ADDITION TO YOSHIDA AND KITAZAWA, HE LET RAMOS AND NAKAYAMA PLAY. HOWEVER, THE IRAQ TEAM'S INTENTION WAS TO END THE GAME AS A TIE, AND THEY DEFENDED THEIR GOAL TIGHTLY. THE CLOCK SHOWED IT WAS PAST 40 MINUTES INTO THE SECOND HALF AT THAT POINT, THE JAPAN TEAM KEPT ONLY TWO PLAYERS ON THEIR SIDE OF THE FIELD AND SENT HASHIRATANI AND IHARA, WHO WERE THE CENTER-BACKS, TO JOIN THEIR OFFENSES.

IT HAPPENED WHEN IT HIT 42 MINUTES MARK. IHARA, WHO RECEIVED THE PASS FROM RAMOS, MADE A THROUGH PASS TO KAZU. KAZU, WHO PULLED OUT FROM THE EDGE OF THE OFF-SIDE, KICKED THE BALL HARD USING HIS RIGHT LEG DESPITE THE DIFFICULT ANGLE. THAT KICK LED THE TEAM TO VICTORY. AT THE INTERVIEW AFTER THE GAME, KAZU SAID, "I PLACED MY SOUL IN THAT BALL." THEREAFTER, JAPAN DEFEATED CHINA AND UAE, SEIZING THE SHINING POSITION AS THE NO. 1 ASIAN TEAM.

--TATSUYA WATANABE *(WINNING RUN)*

OH!!

WHA-WA

AHAHA

GET FOCUSED !!

STAGE.19

VOR!

- Go Further Up Front Than Anyone Else -

THE NEXT IS...

TA-WHEEEET

WHA ...?

I FIGURED HE'D SWING RIGHT AND LEFT THINKING I COULDN'T MAKE A QUICK TWIST

DON'T LOOK DOWN ON US FAT GUYS! OUR BODIES ARE MORE FLEXIBLE THAN YOU THINK!

SLAMM

WHIII

MAN. HE LOOKED EASY I SHOULDN'T HAVE LOWERED MY GUARD.

WHISSHHH

THUD

FOOSHH

KONDO!

BEHIND YOU!

WHAMM

WHIPP

/TSK!

I CAN'T PASS WHILE WE'RE MAN-MARKED WHAT DO I DO? SHOULD I CUT IN BY DRIBBLING?

WHAK

WHOOM

YOU!

/AH

WHIIPP

READ THIS WAY

RRRR
RRR

THEY'RE GETTING MAD BECAUSE THEY CAN'T ATTACK THE WAY THEY WANT.

MUSASHI-NOMORI'S PACE S CRUMBLING

YOUR LEGS ARE SLOWING! MOVE!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING!

PASS THE BALL FASTER!

...I'M THIS CLOSE TO THE LINE!

GEEZ, I DIDN'T REALIZE

HEH HEH HEH.

THIS GUY ..

MAKING IT HARD FOR ME TO MOVE

HE'S STUBBORN

LOOK AT 'EM.

YOU CAN SAY THAT BUT ...

THEY'RE MOVING DIFFERENTLY FROM THE FIRST HALF

BUT IT HASN'T BEEN MOVED UP TO THE FRONT YET -- NOT EVEN ONCE

YEAH SEEMS SO.

THE BALL IS MOSTLY CONTROLLED BY MUSASHI-NOMORI.

WHAMM

WHUP

I'LL RETURN THE BALL BACKWARDS FOR NOW

VISUALIZE AND READ...

...THE MINDS OF YOUR TEAMMATES AND YOUR OPPONENTS!

INSTEAD OF SIMPLY GOING AFTER THE BALL, THINK BEFORE MOVING.

SKRIIIKKK

WHERE WOULD HE PASS?

THIS GUY..

VISUALIZE...

THINK...

OOPS. I GUESSED WRONG.

FWISH

SKRIIIKKK

I'D PASS TO THE RIGHT!

BUT YOUR WILL IS JUST AS STRONG.

LOCKER ROOM

Josai Junior High
Koyamauchi Junior High
Aoiura Junior High

IT'S TRUE YOU'RE INFERIOR TO MUSASHINOMORI IN TERMS OF STAMINA, TECHNIQUE AND SPEED

AS LONG AS YOU DON'T GIVE UP, YOU CAN ALWAYS MAKE UP.

IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE, PLAY HARDER TO MAKE IT UP.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT MISTAKES. GO FOR IT WITH GUSTO!

THINK ABOUT IT

WHAT KIND OF MOVES WOULD YOUR TEAMMATE LIKE YOU TO MAKE?

WHAT KIND OF MOVES WOULD THE OPPONENTS DISLIKE?

PUT YOURSELVES IN OTHER PEOPLE'S SHOES AND ACT ACCORDINGLY.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT POINT

I'M TAKING IT TO THE GOAL!

TATSUYA PASSED ME A BALL!

I'M NOT RUNNING AWAY THIS TIME!

KRAKK

THE BALL IS NOW HEADING OUTSIDE THE SIDE-LINE.

IT WAS A GREAT CHANCE FOR JOSUI, BUT THE IRON WALL OF MUSASHI-NOMORI INTERFERED

WISHHHHH

IT'S GONE OVER THE SIDE-LINE.

NOT YET!

WHAMMMM

SLAMMM

BLAST IT!

WISSHHH

!

WHAT A USE-LESS TRY.

NO. 11 IS FREE!

TATSUYA PASSED THE BALL FORWARD.

BAM

NO WAY ...

DON'T GO!

WHUM

DON'T GO, I SAID!

WHUM

NO, WAIT!

PLEASE I'M BEGGING YOU! I WANNA MAKE IT IN TIME!

DON'T GO OVER THE LINE! NOT UNTIL I CATCH UP..

...BIT...

JUST A...

C'MON!

WHERE WOULD HE WANT ME TO BE?

WHEN HE DOES, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

I'M SURE MASATO WILL GET IT!

BLAST IT!

I WON'T GIVE UP! NEVER!

TATSUYA TRUSTED ME WITH THE BALL..

AND NO MATTER WHAT, I'M GONNA PASS IT TO SHŌ!

BEHIND THE DEFENSE LINE!!

WHOOO

WHISSSH

BOP

BOP

YOU!

THUMP

RUMPP

WHISHHHH

AH!

IF I'M PUSHED, I SHOULD PULL!

!

GOOOF

RASHHH

SHŌ!!

WHAT THE ~~ ?

SHŌ!!

KRAK

GO!!

WHOMM

PASSED BY?!

NO. 9 DODGED MUSASHI-NOMORI'S NO. 6!!!

GOOD

SHŌ!

HE PASSED BY!!

STAGE.20

Offense & Defense Right in Front of the Goal

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
FOCUS ONLY ON THE GOAL!
DON'T THINK! JUST FOCUS!
THAT SPOT!
REMEMBER HOW I PRACTICED UNDER THE OVERPASS
THE GOAL.
THE GOAL..

IT'S ONE-ON-ONE!!
RRMBLE
WHERE SHOULD I AIM?
KAT-SURŌ'S THERE!
GRR
GRR
THUMP
SHŌ!!
THUMP
STOP HIM!

GOO--

--OOO!!

DID IT! IT'S AN INCREDIBLE HIT!

KKK

SKRIIIKKK

READ THIS WAY

AH...

THEY'RE COUNTERING!

YAAAAAAAAAH

KRAKK

GET UP THERE!

SNAPPED?!

SNAP

WHO THE HECK S THAT GK? HE'S NOT NORMAL.

THEY BROKE PAST THE LAST LINE!!

HEH, HEH, HEH...

COMING, COMING, THEY'RE COMING!

SHIGE!

JUST WHAT I WAS HOPING FOR.

A FIGHT.

IF THE OPPONENTS MOVE PAST THE LAST LINE, JUMP AT THE BALL WITH YOUR ENTIRE BODY!

YOUR TEAM DOESN'T HAVE A SWEEPER. SO YOU, THE GK, WILL BE THE LAST SWEEPER

HEH

NOTE: SWEEPER · BECAUSE THIS POSITION REQUIRES TO "CLEAN UP" AT THE LAST DEFENSE LINE, IT'S CALLED SWEEPER

WUNCHHH

FINALLY, IT'S MY TURN.

!!

UNNHHHH!

SHIGE ...

!

KRRRRR...

NOW FOR THE THIRD POINT!

OOKKKKKK

THUMP

YAAYYYYYY

COUNTERING THE COUNTER!!

THOOOMP

I HATE THIS, BUT ...

MMMMM!

IT'S BAD!

KRAKKKK!

MY JOB'S DONE!

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

SKRRRIIIKKK

TATSUYA AND..

..THE OTHERS..

SKRRRIIIKKK

..WITH ALL THE R MIGHT..

...PASSED THIS BALL TO ME.

SHIGE...

I'LL SCORE THIS TIME.

SKRRRIIIKKK

SHŌ !!

SLAAAPPP

IS THIS AS FAR AS...

...I'LL EVER REACH?

I HATE THIS...

SHOULD I GIVE UP?

SHŌ!!

GIVE UP... ME?

If you can do it, you can do it

BASICS

THE BALL...

IF I WAS...

A BIT TALLER I COULD'VE REACHED THE BALL

THE BALL...

STAGE.21 Go Forward

SKRAAAKKKKK

I'LL NEVER GIVE UP!

NO, I WON'T !!

UNNHHH.

UGH...

WHAT?

STAGE.21 Go Forward

OH MD

KRRA

AAA

1

ATTACK

GOOD JOB!

THEY SCORED AGAINST THE SUPER POWERFUL MUSASHI-NOMORI!

RATS! THAT LITTLE GUY...

MAN, EVEN IF IT WAS DUMB LUCK

NO. 9 NEVER GIVES UP! HE'S RELENT-LESS!

WHAT WAS THAT? I THOUGHT HE FAILED TO DO THE HEADING AND FELL. DID THE BALL HIT H'S LEG -- OR WHAT?

FINALLY, JOSUI GOT THEIR FIRST SCORE!

SHŌ!

WE DID IT!

WHOMM

SHŌ ...

UNNHHHH!!

OYASSAN!

GOAL !!

HE DID IT!!

BOOMP

BOOMP

BOP

PLEASE GET THE FIRST-AID KIT QUICK!

AH! THE BLOOD!

SHIGEKI.

JUST HAND ME A BAND-AID AND A HANDKERCHIEF WILL YOU?

CALM YOURSELF DOWN!

AH.

Y--YES!

SPILLL

WE'RE STILL LOSING 2-1. AFTER WE WIN WE'LL GET EXCITED.

AND WHY ISN'T HE EXCITED ABOUT MAKING THE GOAL?

WHY IS SHŌ HOLDIN' THE BALL?

ISN'T THAT THE OPPONENT'S BALL?

AFTER A SCORE, THE TEAM THAT LOST STARTS FROM THE CENTERPOINT. SHŌ WANTED TO RESUME THE GAME IMMEDIATELY, WHICH S WHY HE BROUGHT THE BALL OVER HIMSELF.

HE DIDN'T WANT TO WASTE TIME BY GETTING EXCITED ABOUT HIS F RST GOAL.

THEY NEED TWO MOR POINTS TO WIN.

KA-K-K-K

WHISHHH

WITH THE FIRST SCORE MADE, THE MATCH REALLY BEGINS.

WHOOSHH

IT'S TOO SOON TO BE HAPPY

FOOOM

WHOOSHH

WHAT'S WRONG? ISN'T HE EXCITED?

SHŌ ...

HE NEVER STOPS!

NOT YET...

WE GOTTA GET AT LEAST ONE MORE POINT

AND I GOTTA SHOW YOU HOW COOL I AM.

BUT WE CAN'T DAWDLE ANY-MORE

RESUME THE GAME!

TAPPP

SLAMMM

TA-WHEEEEEE

SLAMMMM

WHOOOSH

BA-DAP

AND VERY COOL.

YOU'RE GOOD.

YOU'RE SHŌ KAZAMA-TSURI, RIGHT?

THEY'VE ALREADY CENTERED

KRAK

I GOT IT!

NO -- SEIJI'S FREE!

TO TATSUMI !!

FOOSHH

SHOOT

KRAKKK

A LONG-BALL?

MUSASHI-NOMORI IS SPEEDING UP THE GAME!

THE BALL'S PASSED TO NO. 10!

HE'LL PASS IT TO NO 9!

I KNEW YOU'D PASS IT TO ME, TATSUYA!

FOOSH

WHOOOSHH

SLAMMMMM

WHAM

WHOOO

MMMM

I MEAN... PUNCHING!

GK PUNCHES!

BUT REALLY...

.. IT'S BETTER FOR ME TO DEFEND BY ATTACKING THAN DEFEND BY WAITING.

HE DODGED IT WELL

WHOA, IT WAS CLOSE.

THEY'RE MOVING UP!

yAyYyYyYyYy

BUMP

BUMP

IT'S JOSUI'S TURN TO ATTACK!

WHUP

IF THAT'S HOW YOU THINK, YOU'LL REMAIN SUBSTITUTES.

WELL, IT'S THE FIRST MATCH. MAYBE THEY'RE NERVOUS?

OUR TEAM ISN'T PLAYING WELL. TWO-TO-ONE AGAINST SUCH A WEAK TEAM.

...

WHAT'S THEIR LEADER THINKING?

THEY'LL LAST MAYBE ANOTHER 10 MINUTES.

QUICK CHECK AND QUICK PRESSURE THEY'RE MOVING WELL BECAUSE THEY'RE MOVING A LOT MORE THAN IN THE FIRST HALF BUT THEY CAN'T KEEP IT UP

SOMEHOW, NEITHER SIDE CAN SCORE!

GET IN!!

ATTACK AFTER ATTACK, BUT...

BOTH SIDES KEPT UP

THOOMP

SHOOT!

MAYBE, PERHAPS

THEY'RE NOT WAVERING AGAINST THE SUPER POWER!

JOSUI'S PRESSING HARD!

BUT I WAS RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE GK!

NUTS!

THEY'VE ONLY NOT [illegible] SEVEN MINUTES

EHHH

KRAK

BACK UP!

AH! THE KEEPER AND THE NO. 9 COLLIDED !!

THUMP

SLAMM

MM!

RUMMP

I'VE GOTTA GET IT IN!

NO MATTER WHAT!

IT SNAPPED!

I CAN'T LET THIS CHANCE GO!

TOSU!

BIOGRAPHIES OF GOAL KEEPERS

DINO ZOFF OF THE ITALY TEAM IS CALLED A LEGENDARY GOAL KEEPER. SINCE THE MEXICAN WORLD CUP OF 1970, HE PLAYED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THE FOUR WORLD CUPS. DURING THE SPANISH WORLD CUP OF 1982, AT THE AGE OF 40, HE LEAD THE ITALY TEAM TO VICTORY. TO TOP IT OFF, HE HAS THE RECORD LENGTH OF TIME BEFORE A FIRST SCORE IS MADE - 1,143 MINUTES IN THE INTERNATIONAL GAMES AND 903 MINUTES IN THE DOMESTIC GAMES. INDEED, HE WAS A GREAT GOAL KEEPER.

JUST LIKE ZOFF, AT THE AGE OF 40, PETER SHELTON OF THE ENGLAND TEAM PLAYED IN THE WORLD CUP. IT WAS THE ITALIAN WORLD CUP OF 1990, AND HE LEAD THE ENGLISH TEAM TO THE BEST FOUR. HE PLAYED FROM 1970 THROUGH 1990, FOR 20 YEARS AS A REPRESENTATIVE PLAYER FOR ENGLAND, AND THE NUMBER OF GAMES HE PLAYED WAS 125. THAT, OF COURSE, IS A RECORD FOR A PLAYER ON THE ENGLAND TEAM... AND NO ONE HAS BROKEN THE RECORD SO FAR.

WALTER ZENGA OF THE ITALY TEAM IS ANOTHER GOAL KEEPER WE CAN'T FORGET. AT THE ITALIAN WORLD CUP OF 1990, DURING THE SEMI-FINAL, HE DID NOT ALLOW THE OPPONENT, ARGENTINA, TO SCORE FOR THE FIRST 517 MINUTES, ESTABLISHING THE NEW RECORD FOR THE WORLD CUP. WITH HIS UNYIELDING AND SHOWY PERSONALITY, HE MADE BIG DEALS OUT OF AVERAGE SITUATIONS AND ATTRACTED MANY FEMALE FANS.

THE ATTRIBUTES REQUIRED FOR A GOAL KEEPER ARE NOT ONLY THE REFLEXES BUT ALSO STABILITY. IN ADDITION, THE ABILITY TO READ THE OVERALL FLOW OF THE GAME AND DIRECT THE TEAM FROM BEHIND. THAT'S WHY, IN THE GAME OF SOCCER, THE VOICE OF THE GOAL KEEPER IS CALLED THE "VOICE OF GOD."

--TATSUYA WATANABE *(WINNING RUN)*

STAGE.22 The Limit

WE TIED IT!!

WE DID IT!!

YAYYYYY

IT'S IN! IT'S IN!

GOT IN?!

YAHHHH

DID IT!

SHŌ!!

THIS IS A JOKE! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!

WHUP

ROOOSHHH

TA-WHEEEEE!

FROOOLLL

!

READ THIS WAY

!

TA-WHEEEEEEEEET

Y... YES!

SHŌ!

ER... YES! SORRY.

I'M GOIN' --

WOOOSH

THE GAME HAS RESUMED.

I COULDN'T GET US TO TIE.

KEEPER

CHARGE!

MAN, HE THINKS HE'S GREAT JUST BECAUSE HE SCORED ONCE

CHARGING AHEAD LIKE THAT WAS CRAZY.

WOW WOW

NO SURPRISE THERE

THE REFEREE DETERMINED THAT SHŌ EXECUTED A DANGEROUS KICK WHEN THE CATCHING WAS ALREADY IN PROGRESS.

THE GOALIE MUST'VE CAUGHT THE BALL FIRST.

IT'S A GOAL. KEEPER CHARGE.

SHŌ GOT YELLOW

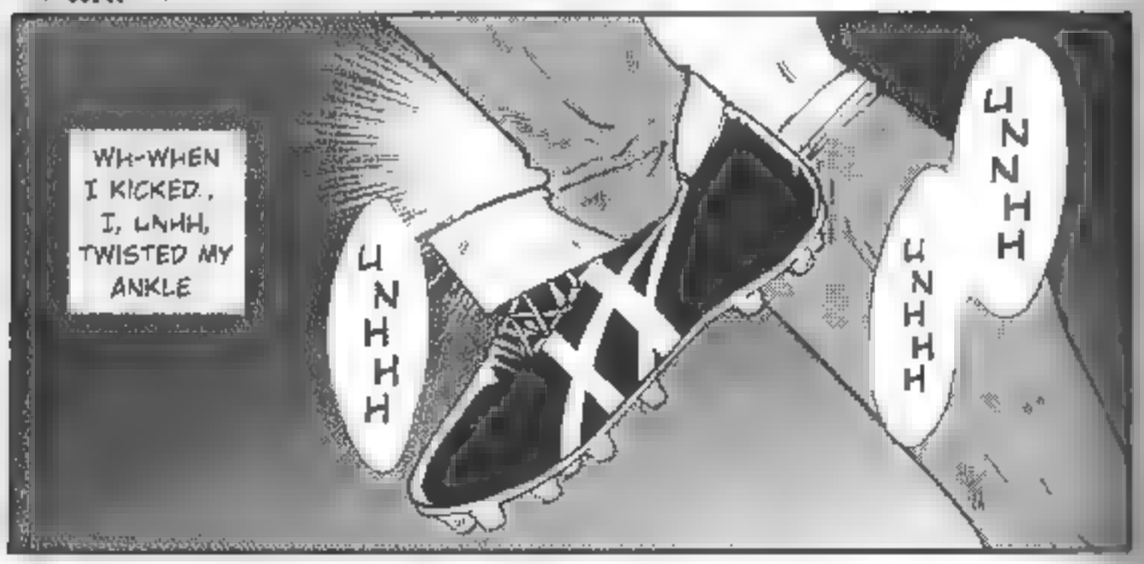
WHY?

TA-WHEET

GOAL DISALLOWED!

KEEPER CHARGE. NO. 9, YELLOW.

NOTE: KEEPER CHARGE IS A FOUL THAT OCCURS WHEN A PLAYER INTERRUPTS THE GK IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS ACTION. YELLOW, AS IN YELLOW CARD, IS GIVEN AS A WARNING AGAINST UNSPORTSMAN LIKE CONDUCT. IF A SECOND WARNING IS GIVEN TO A PLAYER DURING THE SAME MATCH, THE PLAYER IS KICKED OUT OF THE GAME.


WH-WHEN I KICKED, I, UNHH, TWISTED MY ANKLE
UNHH
UNHH
UNHH

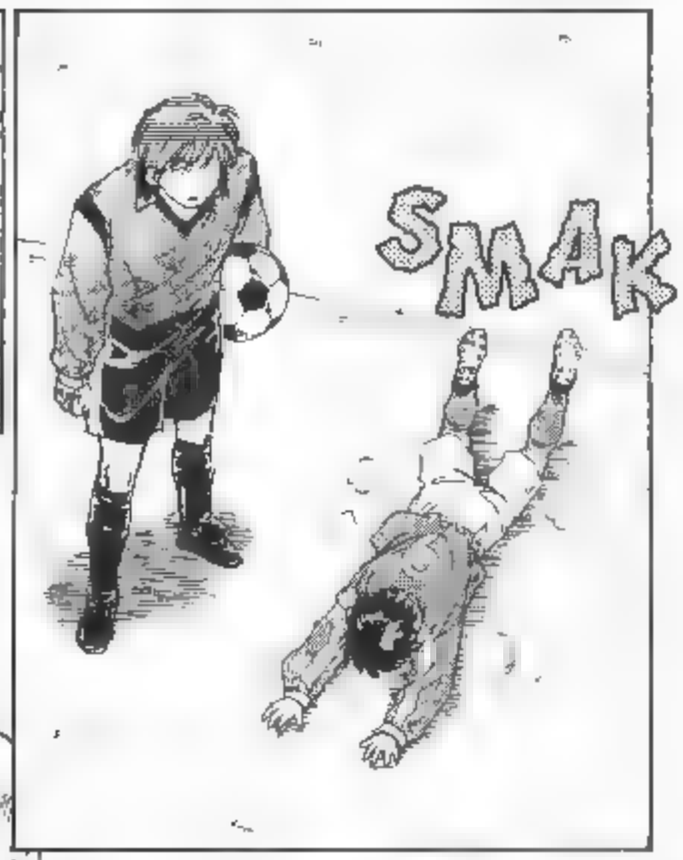
I... I GOTTA PLAY 'TIL THE VERY END!
WE DON'T HAVE ANY SUB-STITUTE PLAYERS.
B-CAN'T LET THE OTHER TEAM KNOW
N-NOT EVEN MY OWN SIDE

WELL, LOOK AT THE WAY THE PLAYERS OF BOTH SCHOOLS MOVE
HUH?

JOSUI DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TIME
HOW COME?

IT ISN'T GOOD THAT THEY DIDN'T TIE JUST NOW
DO YOUR BEST SHŌ

!
WHUK


SMAK

...

ALL RIGHT
THANKS. GOTTA GET MOVING.
WHOOSH

YEAH... I JUST TRIPPED OVER MY OWN FOOT.
Y... YOU OKAY?
HAHA

SO, COMPARED WITH JOSUI, THEY DON'T HAVE TO MOVE AS FAR AND WIDE, SO THEY'RE NOT WASTING AS MUCH ENERGY.

AND WHEN THEY DEFEND, THEY LEAVE TWO OR THREE PLAYERS UP FRONT.

MUSASHI NOMORI USES ONLY TWO OR THREE PLAYERS TO ATTACK.

SO, ALL MUSASHI NOMORI HAS TO DO IS TO WAIT UNTIL JOSUI LOSES THEIR STAMINA

AREN'T YOU ROOTING FOR THEM!

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?

HEY, WAIT. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD THEM TO PLAY LIKE THAT.

SO WHY DIDN'T YOU WARN THEM?

I AM!

THAT'S WHY I WANT TO SEE IF THEY CAN BREAK FREE OF THEIR OWN *SHELL.*

RAAHHHH

SLAPP

BOOM

YAAAYYYY

INCREDIBLE!

YAYAYYYY

JOSUI GOT THE BALL AGAIN!

BECAUSE THEY'RE AT AN ADVANTAGE IN TERMS OF NUMBER AT EVERY FACET, THEY MATCH EVENLY AGAINST MUSASHI-NOMORI.

THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE PRESSURING THE OTHER TEAM BECAUSE THEY ATTACK TOGETHER ON THE OFFENSIVE, AND DEFEND TOGETHER ON THE DEFENSIVE., INCLUDING THE FWs.

YEAH. THEY'RE BOTH ACTING LIKE THE REIGNING TEAM.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM? THEY'RE NOT PLAYING LIKE THE TEAM THAT LOST THE SECOND MATCH EVERY YEAR.

SKRIIIIK

NUTS!

BLAST IT!

I CAN'T GET R.D OF THE MARK.

I WON'T LET YOU ESCAPE!

SKRIIIK

MARK NO. 9!

KASAI! TAKADA!

NO.9 ISN'T MOVING RIGHT.

WAS HE INJURED?

RIGHT NOW...

UHHH

I NEED TO STOP

RIGHT NOW!

UHHN

UHHN

UHHN

UNHHH

UNHHH

UNHHHH

EVERY STEP .. SO MUCH PAIN...

MAN. IT HURTS.

WHAT AM I THINKING . ?

NO!

HUH? TWO MARKINGS?

!

ONCE!

SKRI!!KK

ONCE MORE!

WHOOSH

OHHH

YOU!

UNH

O--

TO SHŌ

THEY'RE ALL TRYING TO PASS TO ME.

TO SHŌ

HUFF, HUFF

EVERYONE

...THE LAST PASS!

WHIRLL

I HAVE TO CATCH ...

SKRRIII!KK

I..I CAN'T G VE IN...

NO MATTER HOW HARD WE TRIED

IF WE LOSE.

TWO MORE POINTS.

UNNGGHHHH

!

I DON'T WANT TO END THIS WITH JUST A GOOD GAME!

DODGED!

SHŌ!

WHOOM

SPARKLE

ONE-ON-ONE WITH GK!

IT'S GONE OVER THE LAST LINE!

FAST

READ THIS WAY

!

SHŌ?!

NO MATTER HOW HARD WE TRIED...

WHA...?

!

WHOOOO

WUMP

SHŌ?!

STAGE.23

Beyond The Limit

KRA KK

MUSASHI-NOMORI'S GK KICKED THE BALL OUTSIDE TO HALT THE GAME ALLOWING THE INJURED PLAYER TO GET TREATED

HUH?

BUT EVEN WITH THIS BREAK THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE A COME-BACK

IT'S USE-LESS ...

KATSURŌ.

EH?

JOSUI NO. 9 FELL AS HE MADE THE SHOT!

SHŌ!

..

WHOOM

!

NOW THEY'LL SEE HOW LIMITED THEY ARE AGAINST MUSASHINOMORI'S SUPERIOR TECHNIQUE AND POWER.

THEY NO LONGER HAVE THE STAMINA OR FOCUS TO KEEP GOING

THE MAGIC IS OVER AND CINDERELLA WILL TURN BACK TO WHO SHE REALLY IS.

IT'S TOO BAD...

THIS IS REALLY BAD!

I WANTED TO SEE

HOW THEY'D FIGHT BACK A BIT LONGER.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

HUH?

JOSUI'S NO. 9 ISN'T GETTING UP.

IS HE HURT?

I HOPE IT'S NOT SERIOUS ...

SHŌ ...

"MIDNIGHT'S BELL" HAS...

... RUNG.

AND NOW IT'S TOO LATE

HE WAS THE ONE WHO MOVED THE MOST...

HIS SHOT WOULD HAVE SCORED IF HE DIDN'T FALL

HE INJURED HIS ANKLE WHEN HE COLLIDED

CAN YOU CONTINUE?

FOOOM

NO. 9, YOU ALL RIGHT?

I...I CAN DO IT.

UNNHHHH

HE NEEDS TO RES--

YES!

NO NEED TO JUMP UP AND DOWN.

WE'LL START WITH JOGG. DOING THE SLOW-N THEN

I'M... FINE!

HOP

HOP

NO! LET HIM PLAY.

SHŌ! FORGET IT WE'LL DO THE ..

I'M SORRY TATSUYA.

SORRY ABOUT NOT SHOOTING THAT BALL.

I'M SORRY EVERY-ONE

OUCH!

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US SOONER ?

THAT COLLISION WITH THE GK INJURED YOU.

WE STILL HAVE 15 MINUTES . WE CAN DO IT

YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE.

WITH THAT INJURY, IT'S...NO WONDER.

IT MIGHT'VE BEEN THE LAST CHANCE TO TIE .

EVERY-ONE

THEY'RE ALL TIRED. THEY'RE REACHING THEIR LIMIT.

...

.AND I BLEW IT.

WAWWW

...WITH SHŌ TO THE VERY END!

I WANT TO PLAY.

WE MADE IT THIS FAR.

HIRO-YOSHI

TA.WHEEET

BESIDES, IF WE DON'T LET HIM, HE'LL PROBABLY PUT A CURSE ON US.

YOU'RE RIGHT

DESPITE SOME GREAT PASSES, YOU MESSED UP TWICE ALREADY.

WE'RE SORRY WE'RE START-ING

CONTINUE TO DELAY THE GAME AND I'LL GIVE YOU THE YELLOW

TATSUYA!

!

SHŌ MUST... PLAY THE GAME!

HIROYUKI?!

HUH

HUH

HUH

BUT BECAUSE HE WAS THERE..

BECAUSE HE ENCOURAGED ME. I DIDN'T GIVE UP.

IF I HADN'T MET SHŌ, I WOULD'VE QUIT.

I I'M NO GOOD! I'M FAT AND A BURDEN.

IN A REAL WORLD, I'D NEVER BE A REGULAR. IT WOULD'VE BEEN A DREAM OF A DREAM.

WHAT'RE YOU SAYING..?

READ THIS WAY

asics

FLIP

FINALLY, THE GAME'S STARTING.

AND STUPID!

USUALLY THE WINNING TEAM DELAYS THE TIME TO PLAY

SO SLOW!

OF COURSE!

HE'S STILL STANDING?

RAMPP!

YOU THINK YOU CAN SCORE *THIS TIME?*

AND YOU STILL CALL YOURSELF AN FW?

THANKS, EVERYONE...

YEAH...

NO, NO WAY

WHAT? YOU GIVING UP AFTER ALL?

TATSUYA!

KRAKK

IT'S THE REASON I KEPT PUSHING MYSELF

I EVEN TRANS-FERRED SCHOOLS TO DO THAT

AT FIRST ALL I WANTED WAS TO TAKE REVENGE ON THE MUSASHI NOMORI WHO SAID I WAS NO GOOD.

I JUST WANTED TO PLAY SOCCER WITH MY FRIENDS. THAT WAS IT.

.. THAT WASN'T THE REAL REASON

BUT NOW I KNOW ..

I...

I'M GLAD I MET YOU ALL, AND THAT ... I CAN PLAY SOCCER WITH YOU LIKE THIS

SO I'M GLAD I CAME TO JOSUI ..

HE'S A STUBBORN ONE.

HE WON'T GIVE UP UNTIL HE TOTALLY FALLS APART.

KLIP / KLIP

OOPS, JOSUI.

HE PASSED THE SLOW-IN BALL TO MUSASHI-NOMORI IS HE TRYING TO PAY BACK WHAT THEY OWE?

IS THAT RIGHT ..

SO LET'S WIN...

PAT!

THIS IS THE TEAM I WANT TO WIN WITH!

FROM THE SLOW-IN, MUSASHI-NOMORI PASSED THE BALL BACKWARD

THEY'RE NOT MAKING ANY OFFENSIVE MOVES. . THEY'RE JUST PASSING THE BALL TO THEM-SELVES...ON THEIR SIDE OF THE FIELD.

THEY'RE NOT MEN! F GHT!

BLAST! WE WON'T BE ABLE TO STEAL THE BALL!

AH ...

FOOOMM

WHOOSH

IT'S NOW GONE

THAT LOOK OF DEFEAT HE HAD...

SO USELESS

. BUT THEIR STRENGTH IS GONE. WILL ALONE CAN'T W N.

THEY THINK THEY HAVE THE ENERGY TO FIGHT BACK

HE'S BETTER NOW...

READ THIS WAY

CLOSE! IT WAS CLOSE!

SLAPP

OOPS!

SKRUKK

FOOM

WHOSSH

FUTT

FUTT

FSSH

FUTT

DON'T THEY KNOW IT'S USE-LESS?

THEY WON'T QUIT!

I'M SICK OF THIS!

KRAK

HE'S SO... STUPID.

NO WAY HE'LL GET IT

HE'S A FOOL!

HAHAHAHAHA

HA HA HA!

WHOOZH

SLAPP

TRY AS HARD AS YOU WANT, JERK

HHHHH

UNHHHHH

SHŌ! DON'T STOP!

KRUSHH

THOSE KIDS..

COULD STILL HAPPEN.

IT MAY NOT END LIKE THIS

SOMETHING.

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

I DUNNO

IN ABOUT FIVE MINUTES THEY'LL GET THE LOST-TIME

I WONDER

HOW LONG CAN THIS CONTINUE

THUMP

WHUK

KRAKK

OOF!

BLAST IT! LET ME TRY THE LONG-PASS

STAGE.24

Rebellion Alone

THEY'RE SO TIRED IF THE OPPONENTS AGGRESSIVELY ATTACKED, JOSUI WOULD BE IN TROUBLE
BUT BECAUSE MUSASHI-NOMORI TOOK A DEFENSIVE APPROACH, THEY MAY HAVE A CHANCE.
IN ABOUT FIVE MINUTES, THEY'LL GET THE LOST-TIME
MUSASHI-NOMORI ISN'T MAKING ANY OFFENSIVE MOVES . THEY'RE JUST PASSING THE BALL TO THEMSELVES. ON THEIR SIDE OF THE FIELD

ONLY WHEN YOUR OFFENSE IS SUCCESSFUL, SEE ?

INSTEAD OF BEING DEFENSIVE, SHOULDN'T WE MAKE AN OFFENSIVE MOVE?

DON'T THEY SAY, OFFENSE IS THE BEST FORM OF DEFENSE?

YES!

BUT COACH!

I TRUST WE CAN DEFEND THE BALL FOR 16 MINUTES WITHOUT A PROBLEM

THEY'RE EXHAUSTED. BUT THEY'RE STILL FAR FROM DEAD

IF WE WANT TO WIN, WE SHOULD AVOID TAKING CHANCES

YOU RISK A CHANCE FOR THE OPPONENT TO STEAL THE BALL AND COUNTER ATTACK

KRAKKKK

WUMP

WHOOSH

MUSASHINOMORI CANNOT AND MUST NOT LOSE THIS GAME!

IT WON'T MATTER HOW GREAT THE GAME WAS IF YOU LOSE

NO MATTER HOW YOU WIN... IF YOU WIN, YOU WIN!

NO NEED TO ATTACK. JUST PASS THE BALL AROUND.

FIFTEEN MINUTES LEFT

THEY'VE LOST THEIR STRENGTH.

OR WILL THEY?

SMACK

NO ONE WILL BACK ME UP.

!

SKRRK

SKRRK

WHISSHHH

AH!

OH NO! HE'LL STEAL ..

WHUP!

KRAKKK

...I'M SO NOT COOL.

COMPARED WITH NO 9..

SN'T GOING TO MAKE ANYONE FEEL GOOD.

AND PLAYING TIMIDLY LIKE THIS...

...I WANT TO PLAY.

THIS SN'T THE KIND OF SOCCER ..

I-I'M A FORWARD.

I HAVE TO TRUST EVERYONE'S...AND...

...AND WAIT FOR A CHANCE!

IT HURTS

...AND IF I RUN NOW, I WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE AGAIN

YOU FOOL!

SEIJI

JUST LIKE HIM.

INCREDIBLE!

HE'S GETTING UP FRONT -- DRIBBLING -- ALONE

WHOOSH

ONE!

SKRIIIK

SEIJI?!

!

NICE FOLLOW!

NOW THIS WAY

GRRR-RRR

DRIBBLE?!

!UNGHHH

SKRIIIKK

SEIJI

FHOOOO

TWO AND THREE!

TUMP!

FOUR!

SKRIIIIK

SKRIIIIK

FIVE!

HE PASSED FIVE OF THEM? BY HIMSELF!

!

A GENIUS LIKE THAT THAT'S THE REAL POWER OF MUSASHI-NOMORI

THEY'RE MORE THAN WELL DIRECTED ORGANIZATIONAL POWER.

TO HAVE SOMEONE WHO SINGLE-HANDEDLY CAN TURN A MATCH UPSIDE DOWN.

CRUYFF-TURN. DIDN'T KNOW MUSASHI-NOMORI HAD ANYONE LIKE HIM

HE IS GREAT

WHOOOOMM

WHIIP

GRRRR

WHY IS HE FASTER THAN THE ONE WITHOUT A BALL?

HE'S SPEEDING UP

WOOOMM

THIS IS BAD IF HE SCORES NOW

JOSUI IS FINISHED

...!

THE GAP BETWEEN THEM IS GETTING BIGGER!!

FWIPP

HEH

HE'S THE ONE COACH KIRIHARA TOLD US TO WATCH

NO. 10...

WHOOOMM

WHOOM

NO WAY!

RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE KEEPER?!

AKK

NEXT TIME, TAKE ME SERIOUSLY!

YAHHHH

MY HANDS! CAN'T MAKE IT IN TIME

SKRIIKKK

HE'S A REALLY GOOD OPPONENT.

I KNOW!

TWO DFs AND GK THERE'S NO CLEAR SHOOT-COURSE

SHIGE!

WELL, SO BE IT

KRAKKK

NO WAY TO MOVE THE BALL RIGHT OR LEFT TO AVOID THE GK

TWO DFs

WOW!

A LOOP-SHOOT!

THE GK CAN'T DO ANYTHING AGAINST THAT!

FOOOM

WHA --?

!

WHAKK

GK DIDN'T DODGE, BUT INSTEAD

...HE SENT IT BACK!

VOLLEY?!

TSK.

FOOOM

WHOOSH

HE TRAPPED THE BALL USING H.S KNEE

BAM

PATT!

WHUP

SHUUUUUUU

WHAMM

HUSHHH

AH! OHHH!

KP

KP

A BACK FLIP?!

FOOMMM

THE BALL'S OURS! BRACE YOURSELVES!

YOU'D BETTER TAKE SHIGE OF JOSU MORE SERIOUSLY!

YOU IDIOTS!

STAGE.25

The Thought Encapsulated In 22cm

SHIGE!

HEY!

FOCUS!

SE JI! YOU FOOL!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE AN ACE STRIKER

IMPOSSIBLE

HE SAVED IT?

HA HA HA HA

IMPOSSIBLE

SHIGE!

THE BALL'S OURS! BRACE YOURSELF, YOU IDIOTS!

YOU'D BETTER TAKE SHIGEKI OF JOSUI MORE SERIOUSLY!

PASS THE BALL SAFELY EVEN IF IT KILLS YOU!

STAGE.25

The Thought Encapsulated In 22cm

THIS BALL!

THIS IS OUR LAST OFFENSE.

READ THIS WAY

EVEN IF I'M FAT.

IF YOU ROLLED, YOU'D BE FASTER THAN THE BALL.

YOU CAN'T PLAY SOCCER WHEN YOU'RE SO FAT

WHUP

I WON'T LET HIM TAKE THE BALL.

NEVER

GGRRRRRRRR

HE'S COMING!

...I CAN PLAY SOCCER!

!

BOOM

WHUP WHUP

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, SEIJI!

IT'S NO GOOD...

PLOP

UNGHH!

OHH

OHH

WHOOOM

...THAN STUDYING!

SKRRIIKK

... LOVE ...

... PLAYING SOCCER MORE...

GET THE BALL BACK!

HEY! JUST DON'T STAND THERE!

WHUP WHUP

THE BALL...

HUFF HUFF

HUFF HUFF

I'M DOING THIS FOR YOU, YOSHIMIKO. YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO PLAY SOCCER!

STUDY HARD. GET GOOD GRADES AND GO TO A GOOD UNIVERSITY. THEN YOU'LL STAND ABOVE ALL OTHERS.

FWISHH

YOU DON'T NEED THIS!

READ THIS WAY

KRASHHH

WHUP

WHUP

WHUP

AND I'M NOT...

DOING THIS FOR THE OTHERS.

...BECAUSE I LOVE SOCCER!

I'M DOING THIS...

SKRIIIKK

BUT YOU'RE A TRAITOR

ACTING ALL SPECIAL, HAH!

I'M NOT A TRAITOR!

YOU WANT TO STAY WITH THI TEAM?

BLAST IT!

THOOMP

AH!

SKRIIIIKK

YOU.

THUD

WHA--?

WHOOOOO

AH--

UHHOHHHH

READ THIS WAY

WHAT'S DRIVING THEM SO HARD?

THEY LOOK LIKE THEY CAN BARELY STAND

INCREDIBLE

EACH ONE OF THEM HAS SOMETHING TO PROVE.

THEIR WILL... IT'S UNYIELDING.

THEY'RE TIRED AND NOT EVEN HALF AS GOOD AS YOU. SO WHY AREN'T YOU PLAYING BETTER?

THE ONLY QUESTION IS -- DO THEY HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO PUSH BEYOND THEIR LIMITS?

VICTORY DOESN'T COME FROM TECHNIQUE OR POWER ALONE

GET BACK THE BALL AND ATTACK!

IN THE END, WHAT'S NEEDED IS A HEART THAT WON'T GIVE UP.

JOSUI

NICE CLEAR, YŪSUKE!

THUMP

I DID... IT.

WHY AREN'T YOU PLAYING SERIOUSLY?

YOU FOOLS! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

WHAT ?!

MASATO, EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER DONE HAS BEEN A FAILURE. BUT LOOK AT YOU NOW — YOU'RE WORKING AT PLAYING SOCCER.

YOU WERE RIGHT, DAD.

HUFF HUFF HUFF

BUT I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT

I KNEW I WASN'T COOL

I'M NOT A MAN IF I DON'T COMMIT TO WHAT I BELIEVE

EVERY TIME THINGS GOT TOUGH, I ALWAYS RAN AWAY.

MAN, THAT WASN'T COOL, AND...

GET THAT BALL -- FAST!

WHY ARE YOU SO SLOW?

WATCHING HIM MADE ME LOATHE MYSELF

I WANTED TO BE COOL LIKE HE S.

I MEAN, HE'S THE BEST, AND I DIDN'T WANT HIM THINKING I WAS THE LEAST COOLEST GUY IN THE WORLD

IF I WANT TO CHANGE I HAVE TO ACT ON IT

BUT WANTING SOMETHING ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH

...UNTIL I MET HIM.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?

JOSUI'S NO. 11 HE STOPPED MOVING AFTER HE GOT THE BALL!

MASATO!

SKROOO

HUHUHH

SWOOSHH

HUHUHH

SKRIIK

THANKS EVERYONE ...

WHOOM

IT'S JOSUI'S NO. 9!

WHAMMM

WHOOOM

SKRIIIKK

WHOOOM

...RIGHT, SHŌ?

ISN'T THAT...

13

I LEAVE THE REST.

UP TO YOU.

OOOPH

LOOK WHO'S RUSHING THERE--

DRAWING IN THE DFs, HE SENT THE BALL BEHIND THEM!

GOOD ONE!

AH ...

BUT NO ONE CAN GET THERE...

KRAAK

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO... STOP HIM!!

HU

NNK

TA

NOTE PK MEANS PENALTY KICK. DEFENSIVE TEAM GETS TO HAVE A DIRECT FREE KICK FROM INSIDE THEIR PENALTY ZONE IF IT'S GIVEN DUE TO A FOUL. IT'S GIVEN TO THE OFFENSIVE TEAM.

I TOLD YOU TO STOP HIM BUT YOU'RE ALL PLAYING HORRIBLY!

IDIOT!

OUCH

NO FOUL!

PK!

WHEEE

I UNDER-STAND

...

THE PK.

PLEASE YOU DO IT.

COUNT ON ME ...

IT'S A PK BURN OUT OF THEIR UNYIELDING WILL.

IF THEY CAN TIE WITH THIS.

ONE MINUTE REMAINING WE'VE GOT A CHANCE

MUSASHINOMORI'S GOTTA BE HURTING THEY WANTED TO KEEP US DOWN BUT NOW WE HAVE A CHANCE TO TIE.

TRUE

TATSUYA

I THINK THEY'RE HURTING MORE THAN ME.

HOW'S YOUR LEFT LEG?

STAGE.26
No. 9's Miracle

ANECDOTE SURROUNDING THE NO 9.

THE ACE NUMBER (NUMBER FOR AN ACE OF A TEAM) IN SOCCER IS "NO. 10." AND THE ACE STRIKER WHO SCORES POINTS IS "NO. 9." HOWEVER, IT'S HARD TO NAME AN INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS PLAYER WHO'S ASSIGNED NO. 9.

THE GOD OF SOCCER, PELE, AS WELL AS MARADONA AND JEKO -- WORLD FAMOUS PLAYERS, ARE ALL NO. 10. THE ARGENTINA'S MARIO KENPES AND THE ENGLAND'S RYNEKAR, WHO ARE THE SUPERSTARS OF THE WORLD CUP AND ARE THE KING OF SCORERS, ARE ALSO ALL NO. 10. THE NETHERLAND'S CRUYFF, THE GENIUS PLAYER THAT TOOK THE WORLD BY SURPRISE, WAS NO. 14. THE GERMANY'S BECKENBAUER WAS FIVE. IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE THE ACE STRIKERS ARE ALWAYS THOROUGHLY MARKED BY THE OPPONENTS THAT THEY CAN'T SCORE THAT MANY POINTS, AND AS A RESULT, IT IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO BECOME A WORLD FAMOUS SUPERSTAR.

HOWEVER, WE HAD AN INCREDIBLE PLAYER IN JAPAN WHO CAN BE CONSIDERED AN ACE STRIKER. HE IS KUNISHIGE KAMAMOTO. DURING THE J-LEAGUE ERA, HE PLAYED 251 GAMES IN 16 YEARS, AND HE MADE 202 GOALS. THAT MEANS, ON AVERAGE, HE SCORED 0.8 GOALS PER GAME. IT'S AN INCREDIBLE AVERAGE. HE BECAME THE KING OF SCORERS SEVEN TIMES. WITHOUT A DOUBT HE WAS AN ACE STRIKER. AT THE OLYMPICS HELD IN MEXICO IN 1968, HE HELPED THE JAPAN TEAM SEIZE THE BRONZE MEDAL, AND HE RECEIVED THE HONOR OF BECOMING THE KING OF SCORERS OF THAT EVENT. AFTER THAT, HE WAS INVITED TO JOIN THE GERMAN PROFESSIONAL TEAM, BUT DUE TO THE ACUTE HEPATITIS HE SUFFERED, HE HAD TO GIVE IT UP. LATER ON, HE WAS INJURED AND SEVERED HIS ACHILLES TENDON TWICE, AND YET, DESPITE ALL THAT, HE MADE THAT RECORD. HE WAS, NO DOUBT, AN ACE STRIKER.

I WONDER IF A WORLD FAMOUS ACE STRIKER WOULD EVER APPEAR? I HAVE A GREAT HOPE FOR RONALDO, THE PLAYER FOR THE BRAZIL TEAM.

--TATSUYA WATANABE *(WINNING RUN)*

CAN THEY SCORE AGAINST SHIBUSAWA -- THE GUARDIAN DEITY OF MUSASHINOMORI?

AT THE VERY LAST MINUTE, JOSUI SEIZED THE CHANCE FOR A TIE SCORE.

I WANT TO SEE HOW YOU'LL DO THIS.

SO MUCH PRESSURE CAN YOU SNATCH ANOTHER POINT?

NOMORI 2 0 1 0

PLEASE LET THEM SCORE ONE MORE POINT!

OH MY GOOD-NESS!

EVERY-ONE'S TRYING SO HARD.

WHILE I CAN DO NOTHING BUT WATCH..

GRINNN

TATSUYA?

TATSUYA?

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT MY FATHER THINKS!

KRAK

I AM...

KKKKK

...WHO I AM!!!

WAS THAT BECAUSE I HATED THAT IF I LOST, IT WOULD PROVE MY FATHER WAS RIGHT?

I WONDER WHY I CARED SO MUCH ABOUT WINNING OR LOSING

BUT Y'KNOW, WHO CARES WHAT HE THINKS?

RIGHT NOW, I REALLY ENJOY PLAYING SOCCER.

AND YOU'RE THE ONE WHO REMINDED ME...

...HOW MUCH FUN SOCCER IS ..SHŌ.

THAT'S GOOD! UPPER LEFT CORNER, FURTHEST POSSIBLE SPOT!

HUHHH.

DID I MAKE --

GET IN!

WHAM

BOTH TEAMS ARE RUSHING TOWARDS IT!

IN-PLAY. THE BALL'S STILL ALIVE!

NOTE IN-PLAY -- WHEN THE BALL OF PK BOUNCES BACK TO THE GROUND, THE PLAY RESUMES.

UNNHHHH

SKRIIIKKK

BLAST IT...!

GRRRR

WHOOMM

FROSHHH

UNHHH

UGH

WHAK

HE AIMED TOO HIGH...

JUST SHORT OF FIVE CENTIMETERS. THE BALL BOUNCED OFF THE GOAL POST!

AH!

BAMM

WHAMMMM

SKRIKKKK

SMAKK

HE SAVED ?!

WAY TO GO CAPTAIN!

STOP THE NEXT ONE, TOO!!

AH ...

JUMP

SMAK

WILL HE MAKE IT THIS...

THE FIRST ONE TO REACH IT IS JOSUI!

SHŌ!!

WHAT?

I CAN'T WATCH ANY-MORE!

WHOOOSHHH

FOOOM

BLAST IT!

WHOOM

WILL THE GAME END LIKE THIS?

NOT YET!

THUMP

DESPITE REPEATED ATTEMPTS, THEIR ATTACKS ARE THWARTED !!

WHOOOM

JOSUI AGAIN!

IT SWUNG TO THE LEFT!!

ARGH!

AHHH!

BOOMM

KRAAK

NO LOUSY JOB NOW ...I'M GONNA SHINE!

MIDDLE-SHOOT THAT LOOKS LIKE IT'S CRAWLING ON THE GROUND!!

HE'LL STOP IT!!

SKRIIIKKK

KATSURŌ READ THE COURSE!

IT'S ABOUT TIME I SHOWED 'EM WHAT KIND OF MAN I AM.

KEEPER! JOSUI'S GK IS GETTING THE BALL?!

THOOMP

G-- GOAL !!

A MIRACULOUS TIE JUST BEFORE THE GAME ENDED!!

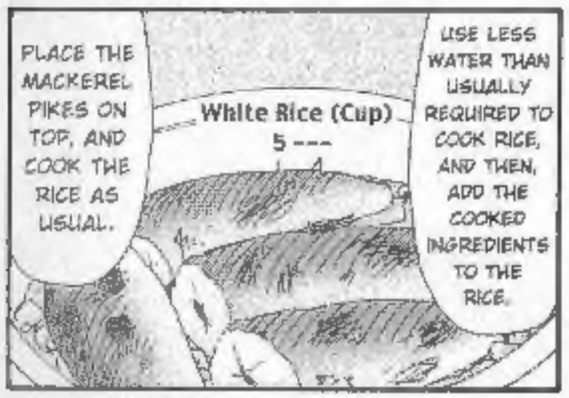
WHOOSHH

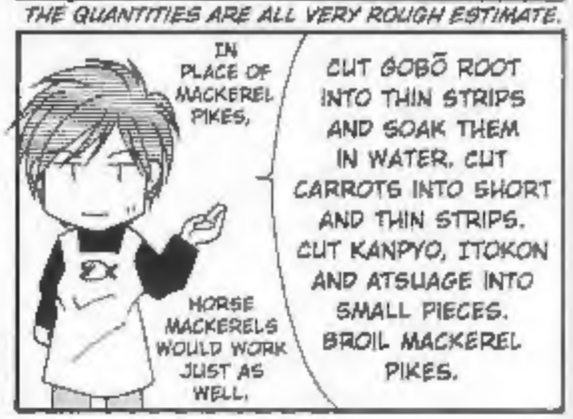
WHAM

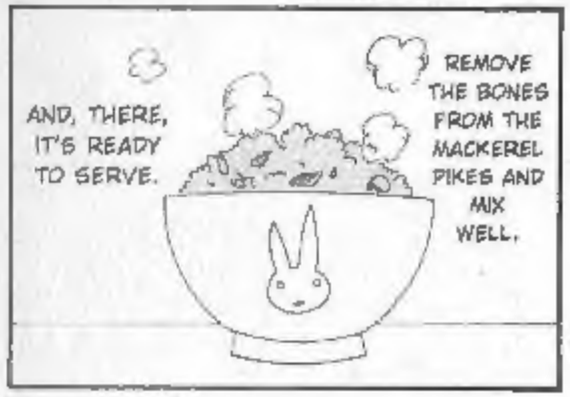
How about the dinner made by Katsurō Shibusawa?

ADD WATER TO COVER 1/3 TO 1/2 OF THE INGREDIENTS, AND KEEP THE FLAVOR SOMEWHAT STRONGER THAN IDEAL.
SOY SAUCE
GLOOOBB
ALL INGREDIENTS AND SEASONINGS EXCEPT THE MACKEREL PIKES ARE NOW ADDED.

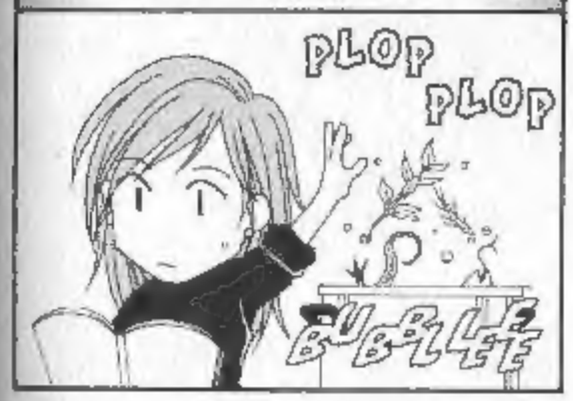
THE QUANTITIES ARE ALL VERY ROUGH ESTIMATE.


PLACE THE MACKEREL PIKES ON TOP, AND COOK THE RICE AS USUAL.
White Rice (Cup)
5 ---
USE LESS WATER THAN USUALLY REQUIRED TO COOK RICE, AND THEN, ADD THE COOKED INGREDIENTS TO THE RICE.


IN PLACE OF MACKEREL PIKES,
HORSE MACKERELS WOULD WORK JUST AS WELL.
CUT GOBŌ ROOT INTO THIN STRIPS AND SOAK THEM IN WATER. CUT CARROTS INTO SHORT AND THIN STRIPS. CUT KANPYO, ITOKON AND ATSUAGE INTO SMALL PIECES. BROIL MACKEREL PIKES.



Whistle's ? minutes cooking.



SMALL WHISTLE! THEATRE !!

HOW RUDE! THIS IS DELICIOUS...

MANGA BY **SEKI**, *ASSISTANT S*

AKIRA MIKAMI

PERSONAL DATA	
BIRTHDAY:	JANUARY 22, 1984
SIZE:	172 cm 58 kg
BLOOD TYPE:	AB
FAVORITE FOOD:	SUSHI (SEA URCHIN)
WHAT HE DISLIKES:	ANYTHING SWEET
HOBBY AND SPECIAL SKILLS:	INTERNET & MEMORIZED CIRCULAR CONSTANT UP TO 50 DIGITS

MUSASHINOMORI SIDE PROFILE

Two side-kicks who're popular for some unknown reason.

TAKUMI KASAI

PERSONAL DATA	
BIRTHDAY:	NOVEMBER 3, 1984
SIZE:	169 cm 56 kg
BLOOD TYPE:	O
FAVORITE FOOD:	SARDINES
WHAT HE DISLIKES:	CHICKEN SKINS
HOBBY AND SPECIAL SKILLS:	FISHING AND PLAYING PIANO

"If you can dream, you can do it. (If you wish, it'll come true.)" is a favorite American proverb of Coach Akira Nishino (Kashiwa Reisol), whom I like, and I took the opportunity to use it. It's a good proverb, don't you think? It has become one of my beliefs now.

DAISUKE NOTE

MASATO TAKAI

PERSONAL DATA	
BIRTHDAY:	MARCH 29, 1985
SIZE:	158 cm 50 kg
BLOOD TYPE:	B
FAVORITE FOOD:	DRY FRIED CHICKEN
WHAT HE DISLIKES:	EGGPLANTS
HOBBY AND SPECIAL SKILLS:	JAPANESE CHESS AND IMPERSONATION

PERSONAL DATA	
BIRTHDAY:	MAY 30, 1984
SIZE:	159 cm 48 kg
BLOOD TYPE:	A
FAVORITE FOOD:	MELON BREAD
WHAT HE DISLIKES:	TOMATOES
HOBBY AND SPECIAL SKILLS:	VISITING AQUARIUMS & LOOKING AFTER OTHERS

YŪSUKE MORINAGA

ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A CAPTAIN CALLED "HONMA" AT JOSUI...

ILLUSTRATION BY MESO AIKO.

MEOW

THERE WERE A LOT OF QUESTIONS IN THE LETTERS WE RECEIVED (PART 2)

Q: WHAT DOES TATSUYA LIKE TO LISTEN TO?
A: IT APPEARS THAT HE LIKES B'Z (BREAK THROUGH. RUN~) LARK (DIVE TO BLUE, SHOUT AT THE DEVIL~). I HEAR HE LISTENS TO VARIOUS OTHER SONGS TOO.

Q: WHICH GAMES AND THE PLAYERS ARE SENSEI'S FAVORITES? (SENSEI = MANGA ARTIST = DAISUKE HIGUCHI)
A: I LIKE THAT MUDDY SORT OF PLAY THE PLAYER MASASHI NAKAYAMA, NICKNAMED GON NAKAYAMA, DOES. I DARE SAY KAZAMATSURI MAY POSSIBLY BE MODELED AFTER GON-CHAN. THE TEAM I LIKE IS JUBIRO IWATA.

JOSUI SIDE

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Next in Whistle!

RE-START

After playing an incredible and inspirational soccer match against their cross-town rivals, the gang at Josui Junior High is now fielding queries from players who want to join their team. One of these hopefuls is Yuki Kojima, the team's pretty manager. She may be cute and sweet but she's also an awesome soccer player; in fact, she may be even better than Tatsuya and Shigeki. Suddenly, there are a bunch of great players on Team Josui. Now all they need is a coach!

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